

History Presentation for the 2013 Ballarat City/ National Trust Heritage Awards

As part of the proceedings in the re-dedication of the McDonald Gates, the History Group was requested to provide a short, informative talk. What follows is a brief précis of the life of one of our generous benefactors, and the gates erected in his memory.

John Young McDonald - born 1837 Leith, Died 7 Sept 1917 Australia

John Young McDonald was the eldest of five sons born to Margaret at Leith (now a suburb of Edinburgh) Scotland. When he was 15 his mother brought the family to Australia as unassisted migrants. Most of the family travelled by the ship *Oliver Lang*, arriving in Australia on 31st July 1855, and finally in September of that year Ballarat. The family first tried for gold in the Inkerman Gully. They lived in Eyre Street. Four years later, aged 19, John had sufficient capital to establish a plumbing and slating business, just in time for the building boom of the 1860s. He continued in this trade until retirement, at age 50, having amassed a fortune. He then speculated in a most successful way in the stock market, becoming a stockbroker and director of mining companies.

He was elected as MLC for the seat of Wellington (now part of the Ballarat West Electorate) in 1888, a position he held until shortly before his death. He was a minister in the Bent Government of 1908.

His community involvements included a term as President of the Caledonian Society when that society presented Ballarat with the statue of Robbie Burns. He was President of the Ballarat Gas Company, as well as Director of Ballarat Trustees and Executors when the Thompson bequest was made. He was involved in all areas of society, including commerce, education, health, church and sport.

He was remembered as a genial man with a twinkle in his eye and a kind word for all. He never married and on his death in 1917, his will provided benefactions for 28 individuals, as well as generous bequests to various charities. His four favourite institutions received the remainder and by far the largest component, with 2868 pounds each going to the Ballarat Hospital, St Andrew's Kirk, Ballarat College and the Mayor and Citizens of the City of Ballarat for the beautification of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

City Architect, George William Clegg, was responsible for the design and installation of the gateway and gates, and the loggia behind. It was in the Art Deco style and imported Karri beams from Western Australia were used in the construction. (These did not arrive in good time almost delaying the dedication in 1921, as the beams requested were not to a standard dimension and had to be milled especially.) Enough money was left over from the bequest to provide funds to build the JY McDonald Bandstand 12 months later.

Other buildings by Clegg include the Titanic bandstand and the Queen Alexandra bandstand in Sturt Street, the Sunshine Biscuit Factory, 'Killarney' the Loughlin mansion in Warrenheip as well as the Queen Victoria Annex of the Ballarat Base Hospital. In the Ballarat Botanical Gardens he designed the McDonald Gates, and the loggia immediately behind as well as the McDonald Bandstand, the pergola behind the Morey Gates and the entrance to the Zoo (now sadly demolished and gone).

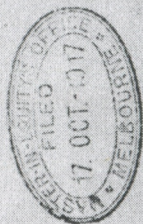
Dated 4th day of May 1917

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Will

— of —

J. Y. McDonald Esq



Salter & Pinkerton
Solicitors
Ballarat

IN THE SUPREME COURT
of the State of Victoria }

In its Probate Jurisdiction

IN THE WILL of JOHN YOUNG McDONALD late of Eyre
Street Ballarat in the State of Victoria - -
Gentleman deceased.

This is the paper-writing or Will marked with the letter "A" and
which was produced and shewn by me to John Glasson at the time of
his swearing his affidavit before me in the above matter on the
13th day of October 1917.

D. R. Jones
A Commissioner &c

This is the last Will and Testament of me John Young M^cDonald of Eyre Street Ballarat in the State of Victoria Gentleman I appoint The Ballarat Trustees Executors & Agency Company Limited of Camp Street Ballarat in the said State Executor and Trustee of this my Will and I declare that the said Company may execute any of the Trusts or powers herein contained by its officers I direct my said Trustees to permit and allow my housekeeper Rose M^cNattie to select any article of furniture or any picture in my residence that she desires as a souvenir and to allow her to remove the same and any other articles or things which belong to her personally and are in my residence at the time of my death I give devise and bequeath to Jane Laurie Sarah A Laurie Alison Laurie John Laurie and William Murray Laurie of Calder Park Maryborough in the said State as tenants in common my residence known as Number six Eyre Street Ballarat in the said State together with the remainder of the household furniture and household effects and other articles and things that shall be in or about the same at the time of my death I bequeath to John Laurie of Maryborough my gold watch and chain and I bequeath to William Murray Laurie of Maryborough my two diamond rings and my scarf pin and sleeve links and I bequeath to M^{rs} William Laurie my gold eye-glass As to the rest residue and remainder of my real and personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever situate and being I give devise and bequeath the same unto my said Trustee Upon trust that my said Trustee shall sell call in and convert the same into money and shall stand possessed of the monies arising from such sale calling in and conversion Upon trust to pay the following legacies namely To my faithful housekeeper Rose M^cNattie the sum of four hundred pounds To the daughters of my old friend the late James Erskine namely Mary J. Erskine the sum of Three hundred and fifty pounds free of probate duty and Maggie Erskine the sum of Three hundred and fifty pounds free of probate duty To each of the children of my old friend the late George Hale late of Bunyiping namely Claude Florence Nellie Marion Philip Edgar Ernest and Robert the sum of Fifty pounds each To the said John Laurie the sum of Three hundred pounds To the said William Murray Laurie the sum of Three hundred pounds To the said Jane Laurie the sum of Three hundred pounds To the said Sarah A Laurie the sum of Three hundred pounds To the said Alison Laurie the sum of Three hundred pounds To Rose Morry the daughter of my old friend Edward Morry deceased the sum of One hundred pounds To M^{rs} Ann M^cCleary of Pascoe Vale near Melbourne the sum of Three hundred pounds To Mary Anderson of Loveton Street Ballarat the blind girl the sum of Three hundred pounds To Maria Quigley of 37 Grant

W.

J. Y. McDonald

Street Ballarat the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds To Charles Gungahy of Ballarat Miner the sum of Fifty pounds To the ^{two} children of the said Charles Gungahy namely Frank and Jack the sum of One hundred pounds and which is to be divided equally between them To my friend J. M. Barker of Ballarat Accountant the sum of One hundred pounds free of Probate duty To my friend R. J. Vitty of Ballarat Timber Merchant the sum of Fifty pounds free of Probate duty To my god-daughter Madge Young M^r Vitty the daughter of the said R. J. M^r Vitty the sum of One hundred pounds free of Probate duty To my god-son Edward M^r Donald Haydon now living with James Walker of Annadale Surveyor the sum of One hundred pounds free of Probate duty To Miss Kate Martin of Bond Street Ballarat East the sum of Two hundred pounds To Daniel Simmons of Columbia Terrace Place off Linka Leith in Scotland the sum of One hundred pounds free of Probate duty To the Ballarat District Benevolent Asylum and Lying in Hospital the sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds To the Ballarat District Hospital the sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds To the Ballarat Orphanage the sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds To the Town Mission of Ballarat East the sum of Two hundred pounds To the Ladies Clothing Society of Ballarat the sum of One hundred pounds And I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the respective Churches and Charitable Institutions shall be a sufficient discharge to my said Trustee As to the rest residue and remainder of my estate and effects and all other my residuary real and personal estate Upon Trust to divide the same into four equal shares or portions and to pay one of such four equal shares or portions to St Andrews Presbyterian Church Ballarat and to pay another of such four equal shares or portions to The Ballarat College Ballarat and to pay another of such four equal shares or portions to the Ballarat District Hospital Ballarat and to pay the remaining fourth equal share or portion unto the Mayor Councillors and Citizens of the City of Ballarat for the purpose of beautifying the Botanical Gardens Ballarat **In witness** whereof I the said John Young M^r McDonald have to this my Last Will and Testament set my hand this Fourth 4th day of May ——— One thousand nine hundred and seventeen

Signed by the said John Young M^r Donald the testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us both being present at the same time who at his request and in his right and presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses the word "two" having been previously intimated in the second line from the top of this side of this my Will

J. Y. McDonald

David Sutcliffe, Solicitor Ballarat

Belle Hudson
Clerk to Messrs Sutcliffe & Pinkerton
Solicitors Ballarat

"B"

IN THE SUPREME COURT)
of the State of Victoria)

In its Probate Jurisdiction

IN THE WILL of JOHN YOUNG McDONALD late of Eyre Street
Ballarat in the State of Victoria Gentleman deceased.

INVENTORY of all and singular the property lands and hereditaments goods
chattels and credits of the said John Young McDonald deceased which have
come to the hands possession or knowledge of The Ballarat Trustees Execut-
ors & Agency Company Limited of Camp Street Ballarat the Executor of the
Will of the said deceased or to the hands or possession of any other person
or persons for it.

ASSETS

REAL ESTATE

1.	ALL THAT piece of land being allotment 13 Section 8 City and Parish of Ballarat County of Grenville having a frontage of 125 links to Eyre Street by a depth of 200 links on which is erected a - - brick house with slate roof containing 7 rooms, bathroom washhouse stable buggy-shed and 2 sheds, occupied by deceased as a dwelling house at time of death Value	450	0	0
2.	ALL THAT piece of land being allotment 2C Section C City and Parish of Ballarat having a frontage of 63 links to Camp Street by a depth of 79 links on which is erected a W. B. house with iron roof containing 5 rooms lined with canvas and paper in bad order occupied by Mr. F. Spielvogel at 10/3 per week Value	300		
3.	ALL THOSE pieces of land being Crown allotment 10 and part of - Crown allotments 9 and 11 Section C City and Parish of Ballarat County of Grenville having a frontage of 40 feet 7 1/4 inches to - Sturt Street by a depth of 132 feet on which is erected three two storey brick shops with iron roofs W. B. sheds at rear The whole of the buildings are in bad repair. One shop is let to Mrs. Sior at £2 per week one to the Singer Sewing Machine Company at £2:5:0 ✓ £8:13:4 per week and the other to The Ballarat Gas Company at - - £8:13:4 per calendar month Value	4500		
4.	ALL THAT piece of land being part of Crown allotment 5 Section 2 City and Parish of Ballarat County of Grenville having a frontage of 100 links to Armstrong Street by a depth of 250 links on which is erected a three storey building of brick and stone known as - The Town Hall Hotel containing 2 Bar parlors, Commercial room, - dining-room, two sitting rooms, 16 bed rooms, brick store room, kitchen, washhouse also a carriage shed eleven stall brick stables with hay loft, nine stall w. b. stable with loose box. The Hotel is let to The Ballarat Brewing Company at a rental of £13:0:0 - per month and part of the front of the Hotel building is set - - apart as a shop let to Mr. J. Mead, Saddler at a rental of 12/6 per week Value	2250		
5.	ALL THOSE pieces of land being allotments 1, 2, 3 and 4 Section 81 City and Parish of Ballarat County of Grenville having a - - frontage of 200 links to Armstrong Street by a depth of 100 links along Grant Street and a depth of 95 links on the south. The land is vacant and partly fenced Value	125		
6.	ALL THAT piece of land being lots 25 and 26 being part of Dendy's Crown Special Survey Parish of Moorabbin County of Bourke having a frontage of 133 feet 9 inches to Elizabeth Road by a depth - of 130 feet along Alexander Street Vacant land Value	45		
		£7670	0	0

ASSETS continued

Brought forward 7670 0 0

PERSONAL ESTATE

Land held under Lease or Licence Nil.

Rents Gas Coy. 1 to 7 Sep £1:14:2, Brewing Coy 1 to 7S £2:11:3 4 5 5

Mead G. 3 to 7 Sep. 7/2 Sior W & N. 20 Aug to 7 Sep. £5:2:10 5 10

Singer Coy. 1 to 7 Sep. £1:18:0, F. Spielvogel 4 to 7 Sep. 4/6 2 2 6

Crops Nil. Live Stock Nil. Farming Implements Nil. Carriages &c Nil. Harness & Saddlery Nil.

Furniture Household furniture and effects valued for Probate by Mr. W. D. Hill at 94 6

Watches Trinkets Jewellery &c Valued by Mr. Robert Reid Jeweller

One Diamond ring £20, one £7:10:0, George IV half sovereign 10/- 28

Gold watch £10, Gold chain & topaz pendant £6, Gold locket 15/- 16 15

Gold sovereign case £1:0:0, Gold sleeve links 10/- - - - 1 10

Gold and sordonyx sleeve links 15/-, Gold ring 15/- 1 10

Gold souvenir U.S.A. Fleet 15/-, Gold souvenir Coronation 12/6 1 7 6

Gold Commonwealth Celebrations Souvenir 12/6, Eye glass 12/6 1 5

Gold scarf pin 7/6 7 6

Money in hand or house at time of death 15 15 4

Salary or wages Nil. Pension Nil. Compensation on retirement or loss of office Nil.

Money in Bank Current account Bank of Victoria Ltd. Ballarat 312 15 2

Money in Bank on deposit Bank of Victoria Ltd. Ballarat Fixed deposit due 20/1/18 £700, Int. 20 Jan to 7 Sep. 4% £17:12:10 717 12 10

Fixed deposit due 4/4/18 £1000, Int. 4 Apr to 7 Sep. 4% 17:1:11 1017 1 11

Fixed deposit due 2/7/18 £1000, Int. 2/7/17 to 7/9/17 4% 7:6:10 1007 6 10

The Ballarat Banking Coy. Ltd. Fixed deposit due 5/5/18 500

Interest thereon from 5/5/17 to 7/9/17 at 4% 6 16 11

Debentures or Bonds Instalments paid by deceased on £200 of Commonwealth of Australia 4½% War Loan Treasury Bonds to date of death 160

Mortgages Amount invested by The Ballarat Trustees Executors & Agency Co. Ltd. on loan to Joseph Morris of Maroona due 1/4/19 500

Interest thereon from 1/4/17 to 7/9/17 at 6% 13 3

Life policies Nil. Bonus Nil.

Shares 50 shares in the Ajax Company No Liability Daylesford valued for Probate at 12/- per share 30

200 shares in The Ballarat Mining Exchange Coy. Ltd. No value.

101 shares in The Ballarat Gas Company paid up to £10 per share valued at £14:15:0 1489 15

48 shares in The Ballarat Gas Company paid up to £7 per share valued at £10:5:0 492

400 shares in The Ballarat Trustees Executors & Agency Company Limited valued at 37/- 740

150 shares in The Ballarat Banking Company Ltd. paid up to £3 per share valued at £4:8:0 660

1000 shares in The Ballarat Woollen & Worsted Company Limited valued at 22/6 per share 1125

Dividends The Ballarat Gas Company for half year ended 31/7/17 80 15 2

Carried forward £16694 15 7

ASSETS continued

Brought forward

16694	15	7
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PERSONAL ESTATE continued

Plant Nil. Tools Nil.

Debts due Estate The Ballarat Trustees Executors & Agency Company Limited for rents collected on deceased's account

26	12	4
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Ballarat Mining Exchange Company Board fees due deceased

2	10	
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Bad debt F. Spielvogel Ballarat for rent £17:9:3

Interest in a partnership or business Nil.

Stock in a shop or business Nil. Good will Nil.

Interest in a deceased person's estate Nil.

£16723	17	11
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DATED the

12th

day of

October

1917.

THE COMMON SEAL of THE BALLARAT

TRUSTEES EXECUTORS & AGENCY -

COMPANY LIMITED was affixed hereto

in the presence of

John MacLeod
Nancy Thomas
John Glasson

Directors

Manager

IN THE SUPREME COURT
of the State of Victoria }

In its Probate Jurisdiction

IN THE WILL of JOHN YOUNG McDONALD late of Eyre Street Ballarat in the State of Victoria Gentleman deceased.

This is the paper-writing or inventory marked with the letter "B" and *which* was produced and shewn by me to John Glasson at the time of his swearing his affidavit before me in the above matter on the 12th day of October 1917.

J. R. Jones
A Commissioner &c.